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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 23, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET OFFICERS AND HEADS OF MAJOR
AGENCIES

It is imperative that in your dealings with the Congress, the press and the public over the next several months you strongly support the budget recommendations I have sent to the Congress -- the reductions as well as the increases.

When I first discussed the 1967 budget with you on May 13, 1965, I said we had to make a major effort in two directions:

First, formulating imaginative new ideas and programs,

and

Second, carrying out hard-hitting, tough-minded reforms in existing programs.

The budget we submitted on January 24 did just that.

- Expenditures for major Great Society programs will rise \$3.2 billion over 1966.
- Interest costs, pay raises, and growing workloads will add another \$2.1 billion of expenditures, apart from the costs of Vietnam.
- All but \$600 million of these increases are offset by proposed budget reductions.

These proposed budget reductions were not made on any arbitrary basis just to hold down the totals.

They were made only after a considered and searching examination of needs and relation to other programs -- private and State and local, as well as Federal.

I know and you know that there are those who disagree with the budget proposals. There is criticism

- from some members of Congress;
- from special interest groups;
- from some parts of the press.

Some of these critics believe the budget should be reduced still more. Others are saying certain reductions are too harsh.

I think it is a good budget -- the two kinds of criticism demonstrate that it is a good budget.

We need to be certain that this budget lives up to its promise.

Therefore, I will expect you and your staff to support the budget proposals vigorously -- including those proposals that contemplate reductions or holding-the-line.

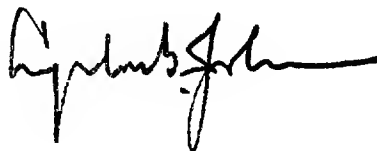
Over the next several months, we will be asked to dilute our proposals, to withdraw our support or to equivocate. We cannot and shall not do so.

I expect you and your staff to do your utmost to obtain favorable congressional action on all the budget proposals. Earlier I asked you to be tough and hard-headed in identifying lower priority activities. Now I am asking you to be just as tough in securing action on proposals affecting those activities.

You must also be diligent in opposing enactment of any proposals that will require more spending than estimated in the budget.

I ask you to cooperate fully in this effort.

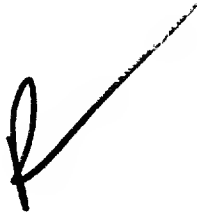
Only in this way can we carry out the plan in the 1967 budget, and hope to achieve our objectives in an environment of sound, non-inflationary economic growth.



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director

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I read some excerpts from this memorandum at the morning meeting today and think that you will want to review it personally. We will, of course, comply with the letter and the spirit.





L. K. White

25 February 1966
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
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